

*One of the most complex sites in the EPA Superfund Program, the Portland Harbor site covers 10 miles of river used for transportation, commerce, and recreation activities. Decades of contamination left a variety of pollutants in river sediments. There are numerous potentially responsible parties and Endangered Species Act (ESA) considerations. And the site is of great interest to six Native American tribes.*

## Portland Harbor Superfund Site



The Portland Harbor Superfund Site extends from about the Broadway Bridge to Sauvie Island. Because of its key location on the river, Portland Harbor has a long history of shipping, industrial, and commercial activity and historical, natural and cultural resource significance. In this stretch of the river, sediments are contaminated primarily with DDT, petroleum products (PAHs) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated Portland Harbor as a Superfund Site in December 2000.

### City of Portland Role

The Portland City Council directed the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) to lead the city's involvement in Portland Harbor. The City of Portland may ultimately be liable for some of the Portland Harbor cleanup and restoration because the public stormwater system can potentially carry contamination from upland areas to the river, and because the city owns former industrial properties within the harbor.

The city has a unique role in Portland Harbor as a steward of this important community resource, as a regulator and a potentially responsible party. Cleanup decisions must be cost-effective, based on sound science and result in protection of human health and the environment. The cleanup must also take into account the economic importance of a working harbor.

### Sediment Investigation

The Lower Willamette Group (LWG), a group of landowners and businesses in Portland Harbor including the city, has worked for over 10 years to develop a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study that describes the type of contamination in the sediments; determines if there are risks to humans, fish, or wildlife; and evaluates cleanup options. The EPA will use information in the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study over the next few years to make decisions on how the site should be cleaned up.



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
CITY OF PORTLAND  
working for clean rivers



Nick Fish, Commissioner  
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## Preventing Future Contamination

There are many ways contamination may have reached the river including spills into the water, river bank erosion, stormwater, groundwater, and industrial wastewater discharges. Cleaning up Portland Harbor is not just about in-water sediments, but making sure all the sources of contamination to river sediments are identified and controlled.

Currently, 36 city outfalls in Portland Harbor discharge stormwater. There are also more than 400 outfalls in Portland Harbor that are owned by other public agencies or private companies. Environmental Services has worked with the DEQ since 2000 to determine how contaminants could get to the city's stormwater system in the harbor, and identify ways to stop contaminants from flowing through the city's outfalls. The city's source investigation work is a critical part of improving Willamette River health.

Environmental Services reached a milestone in its work in Portland Harbor with the January 2014 release of the Municipal Stormwater Source Control Report to DEQ. The report describes:

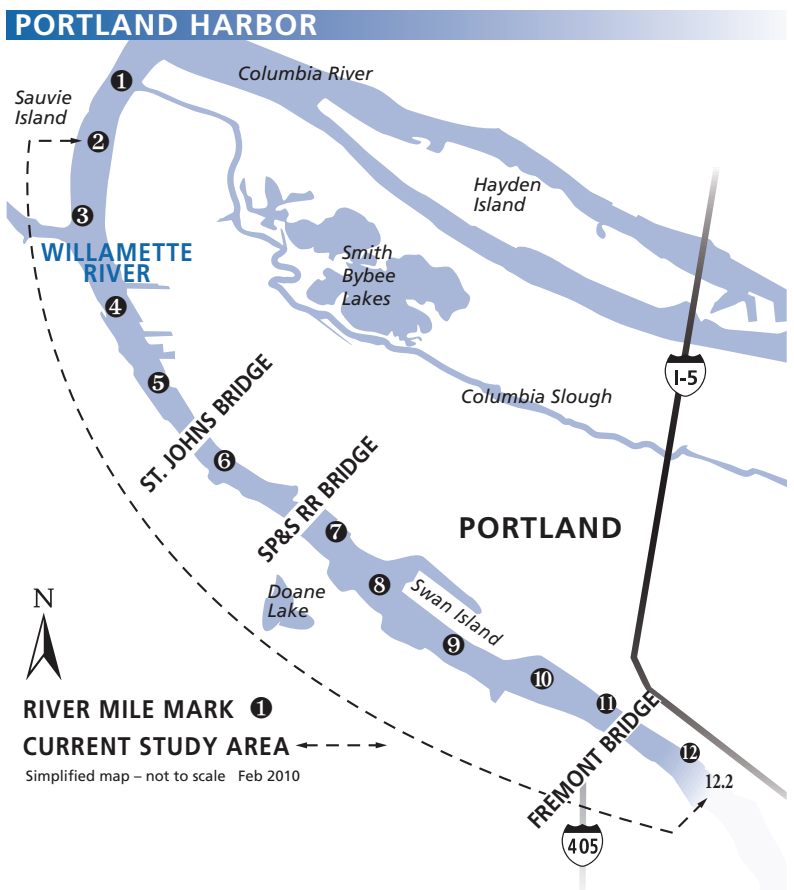
- Various city programs citywide and in the harbor that improve stormwater quality; and
- The city's conclusion that future discharges from city outfalls are unlikely to recontaminate river sediments after implementation of any needed source control measures, such as improving on-site management of materials and chemicals and installing water quality swales and green streets.

Because of the city's work on the Municipal Stormwater Source Control Report, the DEQ added more than a dozen new sites to the approximately 40 other sites where work is underway to investigate and control contaminant discharges to the city stormwater system, in addition to addressing other environmental issues.

## River Mile 11 East

The River Mile 11 East (RM11E) project area is located along the east bank of the Willamette River, just south of the Fremont Bridge. Over the last 100 years, a wide variety of industrial facilities and marine businesses have operated at the site.

Information collected for the larger Portland Harbor Superfund site indicates that there is potential for unacceptable risk from eating fish taken from the RM11E project area, primarily from eating fish containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).



The RM11E Group is made up of a few of the entities, including the city, that own, or did own, property or have business operations in the project area. These parties have stepped forward to work with the EPA to develop additional information needed to expedite a cleanup of the area after the EPA issues a final Record of Decision for the Portland Harbor Superfund Site. This work is currently scheduled to be completed in 2015.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

[www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/PortlandHarbor](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bes/PortlandHarbor)